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Leaks, Unsolicited Advice Plaguing Reagan Transition Team

TRANSITION NOTES

The inherently messy business of transition is being complicated for the incoming Reagan administration by leaked reports, unsolicited studies and a flood of quasi-official proposals affecting government departments from the Veterans Administration to the Central Intelligence Agency.

Press spokesman James Brady and other Reagan advisers have repeatedly characterized these proposals as opinions that do not necessarily reflect Reagan's thinking or lay the foundation for administration policy.

But the leaks persist, making it more difficult for the Reagan camp to settle its ideological feuds in private and keeping transition officials busy smoothing the ruffled feathers of the Republican Party's conservative and moderate wings.

While transition teams can put together reams of facts and recommendations, no real movement toward forming policy can come until the president-elect has named his department heads, according to one official close to the transition effort. When that process starts today, department and administration policy will start to jell around the nominee.

Meanwhile, organizations outside the transition effort who had a hand in early — during the platform-writing, candidate-nominating and campaign process — are hovering about, doing their best to see that the developing administration adheres to their ideals and expectations. And the usual gamut of rumors about abolishing departments and slicing personnel rosters and budgets is taking its toll on the government workers who will remain after the Carter administration goes.

"It's a little bit like roller skating on ice," sighed one transition worker. "Blindfolded. With loose wheels."

On the transition team at the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency: David S. Sullivan, who resigned from the CIA after leaking a secret SALT report to aides for Sen. Henry M. Jackson (D-Wash.), a critic of arms control policy.

— Cass Peterson

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